



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/611,456	07/01/2003	Johann Schuster	P03,0258	1611
26574	7590	09/10/2007		
SCHIFF HARDIN, LLP			EXAMINER	
PATENT DEPARTMENT			ROY, BAISAKHI	
6600 SEARS TOWER				
CHICAGO, IL 60606-6473			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3737	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/10/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/611,456	SCHUSTER ET AL.
	Examiner Baisakhi Roy	Art Unit 3737

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2007.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 6/13/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. With respect to the coupling and releasing mechanism between the gradient coil unit and the patient bed mechanism, Yamamoto et al. clearly teach attaching and releasing the gradient coils 221, 223. Yamamoto et al. teach a movable, small, main gradient coil 221, which is completely separated from a first gradient coil 223. Gradient coils 221 and 223 can be separately disposed. The gradient coil may be integrated with the bed but Yamamoto et al. clearly teach that the gradient coil can be moved to a desired location, while coupled to the bed and can also be released, when not in use. The bed 213 is constructed to be movable on a supporter 214. Yamamoto et al. clearly teach a local gradient coil unit which is movable and is released from the main gradient coil unit, when not in use (col. 15 lines 45-51). Therefore the bobbin supporting the coil unit clearly separates itself from the bed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamamoto et al. (5600245). Yamamoto et al. disclose a magnetic resonance apparatus

comprising a MR scanner have an interior examination space (col. 9 lines 18-44) with a patient bed mechanism 213, adapted to receive an examination subject 212, which is movable into and out of the examination space 214. Yamamoto et al. also teach a gradient coil unit which is movable into and out of the examination space (# 221, #223, col. 9 lines 52-57). The reference further includes a coupling unit that couples the gradient coil unit to the patient bed mechanism to move the gradient coil unit relative to the examination space with the patient bed mechanism (figs. 19A and 19B, col. 15 lines 36-43). The coupling device is configured to automatically join the gradient coil unit to the patient bed mechanism when the patient bed mechanism moves toward and contacts the gradient coil unit in a movement direction (col. 15 lines 43-45) and release the gradient coil unit from the patient bed mechanism when the patient bed mechanism again moves in the movement direction (col. 15 lines 46-51), as suggested in the reference by the proper positioning of the gradient coil unit into and out of the examination region. The movement of the gradient coil with the coupling unit is facilitated automatically and comprising electrical connections for supplying power to the coil unit (col. 16 lines 4-25). The rollers 92, fitted to the bobbin 16, and equipped with the stopper 91, are disposed in the examination space and extending into the patient bed mechanism, interact with the gradient coil unit and patient bed in the examination space and guides the gradient coil unit through the examination space (col. 15 lines 30-51).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. in view of Mastandrea, Jr. et al. (previously cited). Yamamoto et al. do not explicitly address a cart pivotally attached to the examination space to receive the gradient coil unit. In the same field of endeavor Mastandrea, Jr. et al. disclose a magnetic resonance apparatus comprising a MR scanner with an interior examination region, a patient bed or couch adapted to receive a subject and which is movable into and out of the examination space (col. 4 lines 1-10), a gradient coil unit movable into and out of the examination space and a coupling unit for coupling the gradient coil to the patient bed for moving the coil relative to the examination region (col. 4 lines 11-18). Mastandrea, Jr. et al. teach a cart or trolley for receiving the gradient coil unit outside of the examination space and comprising a connection pivotably attaching the cart to the scanner adjacent to the examination space (col. 3 lines 59-63, col. 4 lines 15-37, col. 6 lines 55-62, col. 7 lines 55-65). It would have therefore been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the teaching by Mastandrea, Jr. et al. to modify the teaching by Yamamoto et al. for the purpose of providing proper storage of the coil unit when not in use (col. 4 lines 15-18).

Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Baisakhi Roy whose telephone number is 571-272-7139. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30 a.m. - 4p.m.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian L. Casler can be reached on 571-272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

BR

BR

Eleni Mantis Mercader
ELENI MANTIS MERCADER
SAC 3768